

MESSENGER WEST OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 3 August 2015

LOOKING AT THE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN THROUGH THE LENS OF HOLY CURRENCIES

In 2013, West Ohio Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Gregory Palmer partnered with Rev. Dr. Eric Law of the Kaleidoscope Institute to provide the conference and its churches a means to move toward sustainable and missional ministries using the **Holy Currencies** model. While United Methodist Women is an independent organization of the West Ohio Conference, our goal is also sustainable and missional ministries. The Holy Currencies model is built on the idea that valuable currency includes more than money. It also includes the currencies of relationship, truth, wellness, time and place, and gracious leadership. The **Cycle of Blessings** is the constant recycling of these currencies or assets that enables growth, rejuvenates communities and allows us to live in the abundance of God. All six currencies must be balanced and flowing in order for our UMW ministries to be sustainable and missional.

At our Leadership Development Day in September, 2014, I began working with you on **Gracious Leadership.** As your new president, I observed that we have many gifted leaders in our organization. But I also observed some who do not recognize their gifts and some who do not want to take responsibility for using their gifts. United Methodist Women provides the tools to assist you in your leadership roles. When your leadership skills are fine-tuned they can also be used in your church and in your community.

The currency of **Truth** is the ability to articulate individually and corporately the global and wholistic truth internally [the experiences of the different members and groups] and externally [the experiences of the different individuals and groups in the communities, cities, the nation and the earth]. One of UMW's strongest currencies is our national organization's ability to discern, develop and disperse truth. We have been the voice of truth for many voiceless women, children and youth worldwide for almost 150 years.

The currencies of **Time and Place** and **Relationships** seem to flow together in a steady stream of service. At every level of UMW, members form partnerships for more effective ministry. The currencies of time and place are exchanged with the local unit and the church. The district United Methodist Women partner with a National Mission Institution in their community. The conference UMW partners with West Ohio Conference to develop an outstanding Mission u for the whole church. The national organization of United Methodist Women forms relationships with organizations nationally and globally to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Some examples of strong partnerships are with YWCA, General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR and the Immokolee Farm Workers.

The currency of **Wellness** has many facets: physical, spiritual, emotional and community. One important part of the UMW purpose is spiritual growth or wellness; thus the Mission u topics of "How Is It With Your Soul?" and "Finding Happiness in God". Other important parts of the purpose are supportive community and social justice which strengthen the community and make it healthier.

The currency of **Money** is last but not least. But it is also not first and foremost. Remember the flow in the cycle of blessings. The currency of money only has meaning if it circulates. For United Methodist Women, money enables the other blessings to occur. If money is not used, it ceases to be a currency and it has no value. Money flows through the UMW channels of giving to be a blessing for women, children and youth globally. Each of the currencies makes it possible for another currency to have meaning and purpose. As followers of Jesus, we learn that God owns everything; God gives abundantly; God does not want us to keep what God gives us but instead we are to circulate these resources. God's blessings are then recycled to create more blessings. Indeed, United Methodist Women members are blessed to be a blessing.

Blessings, Joan Johnson, President

CONSIDER SAYING YES

As I ponder the last four years as your WOC UMW Secretary, I think of the Dr. Seuss book, Oh, the Places You'll Go. I think about all the opportunities that I have had because I said "YES" many years ago when asked be an officer in my local UMW. I said YES because 2 ladies came to my home and asked me to take an office in our local unit. They were kind, sincere, and willing to support me and help me as I began this new adventure. The adventure continued as I said YES when asked to serve on the district UMW team. They asked many years before I agreed to serve. I then was asked to serve at the conference level. Because I said YES, I have been able to meet amazing women from all corners of Ohio and around the world. These women have shared their lives and faith journeys as we all experience the freedom that each of us has found in Jesus. I have found a community of women at all levels: local, district, conference and beyond who are supportive and creative in the ways they serve the mission and ministries of the church. These amazing women (and this includes you) have been encouraging as they prayed for me and my family. And in return, I have been able to pray of them and this too, includes you. I count you all as friends.

Because I said "YES", I have been able to step outside of my comfort zone and do things that I never thought I would be able to do. I was forced to become a little more computer literate (and that is a good thing in this age of technology). I have learned to better organize my time (remember OH—IO: Only Handle It Once). I have learned to be more out-going; to have conversations with people I do not know and to speak to larger groups of people. These are definitely outside my comfort zone. Because I said YES, I was able to get to know our 4 national mission sites better and to become actively involved with Friendly Center. This has changed the way I look at and support all missions but especially this mission in North Toledo.

I have a deeper faith because of this creative supportive fellowship called United Methodist Women. For all of these things, I thank God. I thank each of you for giving me so many opportunities, for seeing something in me that I did not see. Many of the opportunities I have had are open to each of you: Leadership Development (September 12 in Westerville), Annual Celebration (November 14 in Powell), NCJ (June 24-26, 2016 in Grand Rapids, MI), Mission u (July 7-10, 2016 in Ada).

So when you are asked to serve, prayfully consider saying YES. Unless you let go of the things holding you back and fully rely on God, you will never know the places that God is taking you. He will be with you always even to places that may be beyond your wildest dreams.

See you in September at Church of the Messiah in Westerville,

Tina Basinger, Secretary

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER



Above are the remittance results as of 7/31/2015, with each District's percentage based on their pledge. The Conference has remitted 22.5% of our 2015 pledge of \$350,000.00. As you can see, we have a lot of Gift to Mission gifts to accumulate, to attain our goal. As we contact our local United Methodist Women, let them know some of the 'Stories of Mission Giving'. Remember, God has a plan for us.

In Faith, Hope, Love in Action ~ Sylvia Kempton, Treasurer

COMMUNICATE

This is the last Conference newsletter for 2015. There is still many things happening and much information to be shared. Look to your District newsletters and remember to check the website: www.westohioumw.org often. You'll find updates to the UMW WOC Yearbook, current district information, upcoming events and more. Want a picture on the web? Have an upcoming UMW event to publicize? Email me the picture/information at Pamela 1 harris@yahoo.com.

Keep communicating!
Pam Fugett, Communications Coordinator

PROGRAM RESOURCES

What a wonderful opportunity this year it has been deepening our spirituality and understanding of our mission work through our Reading Program. I hope all of you have enjoyed and have been encouraged you to leap into action. As the year 2015 is winding down, now is the time to document all of the readings you have done. Everyone should have been able to accomplished Plan 1 which is reading 5 books for the year. Remember if you attended Mission u, you already read 2 books.

Please complete your list (found as a free download at www.umwmissionresources.org) and give it to your district Secretary of Program Resources coordinator by Oct. 1st.

2016 Reading Program books will be available at the West Ohio Conference Annual Celebration in November.

So, keep on reading!

Alice Sherick, Secretary of Program Resources



NOMINATION NEWS!

TO BE OR NOT TO BE......A LEADER? THAT IS THE QUESTION. In my retired time been reading the United Methodist Handbook: 2013 – 2016. It reads, accepting a **leadership** role requires a commitment of time, energy and effort. But in return, you develop a better understanding of mission, grow spiritually and are sustained by the knowledge that you are making a difference in the lives of women, children and youth and unjust systems. Each **leadership** team in the district should include a president, treasurer, secretary and chair of the committee on nominations. Additional persons may be named, teams or committees formed as needed to fulfill the PURPOSE and to meet the needs of the district. Okay, so what is your job?

Be on the lookout for potential **leaders.** Reach out to your district members, sending potential leader forms to each unit. Be available to answer questions. Know fully the job descriptions. Have a display for your events showing the opportunities of becoming an officer. Make sure you are on the agenda to talk about nominations and always send forth a positive attitude.

I am always available to talk with you: kinder6595@hotmail.com; 614-326-9062...Paula

Paula Nourse, Chair of Committee on Nominations

IMPORTANT DATES!

Wednesday, September 9 – HIV& AIDS Event, Livingston UMC, Columbus OH (info/flyer at www.westohioumw.org/Events)

Saturday, September 12 – Racial Justice Leadership Development,
Church of the Messiah UMC, Westerville, OH

Saturday, November 14 – Annual Celebration, Powell UMC, Powell, OH

FOUR NATIONAL MISSION SITES LOCATED IN THE WOC

Community Development for All People: 946 Parsons Ave. Columbus, OH 43206 www.4allpeople.org

Friendly Center: 1324 N. Superior St. Toledo, OH 43604 www.friendlycentertoledeo.org

Wesley Community Center: 3730 Delphos Ave. Dayton, OH 45417 www.wcciday.org

Wesley Education Center: 525 Hale Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45229 www.wesleyeducationcenter.org

Book Reviews - Submitted by Ann Greiner, Mission Coordinator

I recently read three books from the 2015 Reading Program that I highly recommend. Each is from a different category--Education for Mission (EM), Leadership Development (LD), and Spiritual Growth (SG)

<u>The Golden Cage</u> (EM) is written by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Shirin Ebadi. It tells the story of her friend's three brothers growing up in Iran. The oldest becomes a general in the Shah's army, the middle brother joins the Iranian Communist Party, and the youngest brother follows the Ayatollah. Each is in his own "Golden Cage" and separated from each other. This wonderful story of family dynamics also follows and concisely explains Iran's history from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.

<u>Summit It Up</u> (LD) is basketball coach Pat Summit's autobiography. She gives many examples of her leadership style as the head coach of the University of Tennessee Lady Vols. This book is also a bitter reminder of the condition of women's and girls' sports before the passage of Title IX. Perhaps the most poignant parts of the book deal with her diagnosis and struggles with Alzheimer's disease. By the way, she's a United Methodist.

<u>No Longer Silent</u> (SG), The Empowerment of Women in the Gospels, is written by Susan Dean Matthews. The book is written in devotional style, with scripture followed by her telling of the Gospel story and concluding with reflective questions, She assumes that many of the male figures could be female. One example--her innkeeper at Jesus' birth is a woman and also a midwife, who picks the stable because it's private. She helps deliver Jesus. If you want to stretch your mind spiritually, this book's for you.

From the Prayer Calendar:

The country today is celebrating the *inclusion* of Guanacaste to Costa Rica, an event that occurred July 25, 1824, as the people of that region voted to leave Nicaragua. Historically Guanacaste is recognized as the area where an indigenous group known as the Chorotega Indians first settled more than 10,000 years ago. July 25 is "feriada", and most businesses are closed, allowing all Ticos and Ticas to celebrate that *inclusion*. *Inclusion* is a very powerful word and has responsibilities that come to both sides. Those from Guanacaste accepted the culture and laws of then Costa Rica, and the Ticos agreed to provide for and treat the people of Guanacaste equally, as citizens. Jesus taught us to do the same. It is never an easy process. But, oh, what the love of Jesus Christ can do to crack our shells as we reach out to others in God's love and without personal judgments. It is the best "democracy" one can know.

Becky Harrell, missionary, General Board of Global Ministries, South Central Jurisdiction

United Methodist Women Four New Mission Work Priority Areas 2016

- Climate Justice: Life-giving stewardship that promotes sustainability.
- Maternal and Child Health: Life-saving access and education that promotes well-being.
- Racial and Gender Justice: Protecting women and families by ending criminalization of people of color.
- Economic Justice: Inequality is a women's issue.

Mission u Report for 2015

We had a total of 431 adults, youth and children attending this year. Offerings of more than \$7566 were collected and disbursed to various missions. This is for all 3 sessions (4-Day/Weekend/Day Sampler). **District Officers** – please note that it is in your job description to attend Mission u. The Conference UMW pays for registration, lodging, meals and travel mileage to either the 4 Day or the Weekend event. This is THE best opportunity for learning about mission and our roles offered to us. We offer scholarships for 1st time attendees – both women and youth. We had 6 Martha and 10 youth scholarships go unused! The scholarships cover registration, lodging and meals. There are also a limited number of scholarships available for men..

The dates for the 2016 Mission u at ONU are: July 7-10 (week); July 8-10 (weekend); and July 9 (Day Sampler). Yes, the dates overlap! This is a new schedule for us.

Our topics for next year are: The Bible and Human Sexuality; Climate Justice and Latin America.

The following was shared by a 1st time attendee:

Thoughts on Mission U

- -Didn't expect it to start so early and be scheduled continuously throughout the day
- -Didn't expect that I would be expected to have several chapters of books read before I arrived or before I purchased the books. Didn't know I was really IN School. They even took attendance every class.
- -Didn't quite know how to get around and make the most of all the conveniences at my disposal. Thought the elevator was a restroom until last day—women were always rushing to it after lunch!
- -Didn't know I'd need a large bag to carry books, Bible, writing tools, purse, umbrella, sweater, water, etc. in continuously. It was chilly INSIDE and once you left the apartment you were off for the day. (Tues. known as rain date.)
- -Didn't know youth and husbands were included.
- -Didn't expect so many Ministers/Pastors to be at Mission U. Didn't know all Pastors are automatic members of UMW.
- -Didn't know a recently retired pastor would soon become my new best friend, Nor did she realize she's probably stuck with me for a long time.
- -Didn't expect to learn a minister lives about 3 miles away from my house.
- -Didn't realize I would meet missionaries from as close as Columbus and as far away as Nepal.
- -Didn't expect to hear a Native American Indian husband and his Puerto Rican wife share the similarities of their cultures; their music and storytelling' It was terrific.
- -Didn't expect to meet a person who was severely handicapped and learned to accept him as BEN and enjoy his company; vs the guy in the wheelchair who moves strangely. What an amazing story he tells via a film and lapboard.
- -Didn't expect to do a Facilities Disability Audit and have it authenticated by the team member that has always required a wheelchair/powerchair. Not just an exercise but a serious reality. Insightful. (We need to consider sign language, and other things better. Make things like lg. print readily available –not have to ask for them. And perhaps dual language signage.)
- -Didn't remember much of my high school Spanish, but was glad when I sang songs with both English and Spanish words. Need to revisit Spanish classes for old folks.
- -Didn't think about outside world-news events, but heard the recent news events interrupted by the Bishop and others in the sermon/classes/and other presentations.
- -Didn't expect to see a Korean man who is a UM minister speak frankly and humorously of heading a trailer park ministry for Spanish speakers—looks surely fooled me.
- -Didn't expect to have so many connections throughout the conference with the Dennis Mohler/Miller connection from our Church, the Birk's, and the 2012 and 2013 UMW Annual Conference at Purple door, as well as other meetings I had attended for past few years. We often heard—"we have been to your church, or we know your minister/wife." Felt like friends vs strangers quickly.

- -Didn't expect to meet someone immediately who had been a long time book reviewer for National and who had been on the NY Office book review committee. Boy, did I bend her ear—and she is our Conference Pres...fun, friendly, and so refreshing. Know I'll be willingly working with her.
- -Didn't realize I was so well versed in the Reading Program and could easily talk about the pros and cons of a variety of books whether they were ones in the Book room or elsewhere. Also helped people make informed purchases of books.
- -Didn't expect to have people engage in book reviews whether this year's books or not. Didn't expect to feel empowered and encouraged to consider the next step.
- -Didn't expect to be anxious to read what happened the next days on Facebook at MissionU after I got home.
- -Didn't imagine the amount of money raised the first 4 days of MissionU—nearly \$5,000.
- -Didn't know the friends I would make while there. The connections, the sincere conversations and amazing insights and compassion people had—in many ways without knowing underlying issues. (My close friend's Mom was in transition stage at Hospice and without sharing that –people contributed stories that ministered as though they knew==amazing!! God at work.)
- -Didn't expect to learn of a new brand of shoes—that may be beneficial to a daughter; nor of an outlet in Ft. Wayne, Ind. For Vera Bradley bags—special sales date. Who would have thought it—those book bags may be useful!
- -Didn't expect to hear from a person who had worked with difficult legal issues between clergy and congregation. When people become too friendly.
- -Didn't expect to have someone clarify my thoughts and feelings of grief of what used to be.... a young friends' accident left him paralyzed –perhaps even more than the friend—I'm still victimized by his accident.
- -Didn't know how much I missed the international connections I had shared and had at OSU until I felt them at MissionU and was comfortable with them there.
- -Didn't really think seriously about: "God created me for happiness". "God loves me so much I'm priceless": or that," Nothing can separate me from God"...before I went.
- -Didn't expect to feel like I do...to be refreshed, energized to the point I'd think I would want to do more on the District level and to go to another conference.
- -Maybe you would like to find out what you just don't expect to happen to you next year.

LEGACY FUND

'Stories of Mission Giving' on the unitedmethodistwomen.org website is an eye-opener for learning about 'Where the \$ Goes'. There are over 50 stories; so many heavy hearts have been lifted when hope was found through the generosity of United Methodist Women. This is our mission. To reinforce our foundation, a Legacy Fund has been established to begin the celebration of our 150th Anniversary in 2019. This is a second-mile giving, in addition to our regular pledge and mission giving. In the year of 1869 our fore-mothers had the insight, faith and were called to action by God and their own ingenuity to begin the journey of United Methodist Women. We have progressed over the years and are now 800,000 strong. We all are proud to be a part of this great organization; and we know we are very cohesive. It takes all of us working together for this mission journey to continue on a solid foundation.

Pray about the Legacy Fund gift that you may give. In Faith, Hope, Love in Action ~ Sylvia Kempton, Treasurer

Visit www.westohioumw.org/Events to download the form to make your Legacy Fund gift



West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women Welcomed by God: Welcoming All (Valuing Our Diversity)

A Leadership Development Opportunity for everyone, planned by the WOC UMW Charter for Racial Justice Committee

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Don Wilson, Pastor of Gaines UMC in Cincinnati, President of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal

Workshops:

Modern Trends in Cultural Sensitivity
by Harris Tay, Director of Diversity Initiatives for West Ohio Conference
The Next Steps: Tools and Actions for Racial Justice
by Katelin Hanson, Worship Music Director for Church 4 All People

Saturday, September 12, 2015, 10 AM – 3 PM Registration, coffee, and browsing 9:00 – 9:50 AM Church of the Messiah 51 N State St, Westerville OH 43081

Cost: \$12.00 for lunch and materials

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2015

Send registration form and check payable to WOC UMW to

Sylvia Kempton, 322 Zane Rd, Chillicothe OH 45601

kemptonss@yahoo.com; 740-773-7901

Name:	District:	
E-mail/phone number:		_
/egetarian/dietary restrictions		

Living Our Faith in Relationship With All God's Creation

A Climate Justice Mission Opportunity November 13, 2015

West Ohio Conference Center 32 Wesley Blvd. Worthington, OH 43085

The day will include:

9:15am Arrive at West Ohio Conference Center (Please enjoy breakfast before arriving)9:30am Prompt Departure for Day Trip4:30pm Return to West Ohio Conference Center

Sponsored by

West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women

District	Phone or email	
Name		
Send registration form and checks, payable to Sylvia Kempton, 322 Zane Rd. Chillicothe, OH 45601. If you are registering others, please list them		
Registration Deadline: November 6	Cost: \$10 	
Lunch, and a trip to the Byrd Polar Resear	ch Lab at Ohio State University	
A visit to Methodist Theological School of	Ohio's Seminary Hill Farm	
A roundtable discussion with Rev. Kathlee	n Stone, our Annual Celebration Keynote Spea	ıker

Questions: contact Sylvia at 740-773-7901 or kemptons5@yahoo.com

If you need lodging, one possibility is: Homewood Suites, 115 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235



OUR CALLING: To Welcome a Sustainable **Future**

WEST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN November 14, 2015

10:00 am - 3 pm (Check in starts at 9 am) Cost: \$12 per person (includes lunch) Powell United Methodist Church 825 E. Olentangy Street Powell, Ohio 614-847-3703 or email at: www.powellumc.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KATHLEEN STONE

Office of Economic and Environmental Justice

Registration Deadline: Nov. 6, 2015

NAME	
DISTRICT	
Phone or email	
If you are bringing children to Annuthem on back. Bring a sack lunch for	ual Celebration (include name & age of child), please listor each child.
Dietary Restrictions:	Vegetarian option
Large Print Program Schedule:	
Lunch not guaranteed for late reg	sistration. No refunds for canceled reservations.
Make check payable to WOCUM	IW & send with registration to
Sylvia Kempton WOCUMW, 322	2 Zane Rd. Chillicothe, OH 45601

Program Resources and SERRV will be available Handicap Accessible Please bring your own water bottle and/or coffee mug



Taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Mark 6:41 and 42

Loaves and Fishes Offering

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is the only miracle found four different places in

the Bible: Matthew 14:13–21, Mark 6:32–44, Luke 9:10–17, and John 6:1–13. When God wants us to pay close attention, He repeats the message.

A young boy joined his father to find Jesus and listen to him teach. Before they left, his mother gave him five tiny rough barley loaves and two small dried fish wrapped in a cloth. In the afternoon, the disciples asked if anyone had some food. The boy offered his lunch because the words of the Teacher had touched his heart. The boy in the story had nothing more than a small lunch and the willingness to give to Jesus. The Lord took that lunch and asked His Father to bless it. That tiny lunch, after it had been blessed, fed 5000 men and probably a similar number of women and children. (Read more in *One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity*, Debbie Macomber; Social Action 2013)

West Ohio Conference UMW Mission Team again invites you to gather the cost of loaves and fishes. You can have your entire church, unit, circle, or district involved in this special project or donate as an individual. No gift is too small for God to create a miracle of abundance.

- Purchase one loaf of bread by donating \$3
- Purchase one fish by donating \$5
- Purchase 5 loaves and 2 fish by donating \$25

Bring your offerings to your district annual meeting or conference UMW Annual Celebration Nov. 14. Make checks payable to WOC UMW and mark it Loaves and Fishes Offering.

West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women Loaves and Fishes Offering	
After prayerful consideration, please accept this gift of \$special offering from [] person, [] circle, [] unit, [] church, or [] district.	to this
Name: Church District: Phone: Address: E-mail:	
Thank you very much!	

2015 WEST OHIO CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS, COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

*Chairperson,	1398 Royal Oak Drive	kinder6595@hotmail.com	740-549-0623
Committee on	Lewis Center, OH		614-326-9062
Nominations	43035		
Paula Nourse (Class 2015)			
Class of 2015			
Class of 2017	958 Franklin Townhouse	janie@jacksonchrist.org	740-978-8433
Jane Karl	Road Jackson, OH 45640		
Class of 2017	150 Warren Heights Drive	clineb@suddenlink.net	740-373-4096 h
Barbara J. Cline-	Marietta, OH 45750		740-525-0804 c
RESIGNED 5/2015			
Class of 2018	612 Concord Village	vrgnscott@gmail.com	740-966-3204 h
Virginia Scott	Circle		740-336-2911 c
-	Johnstown, OH 43031		
Class of 2018	4936 Plainville Road	roxieh0235@aol.com	513-561-8029
Roxie Hutsell	Cincinnati, OH 45227		
Class of 2018	4067 Waderidge Trail	gallowayjy@gmail.com	614-678-4621
Jean Hines	Groveport, OH 43125		

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

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Coordinator	Middletown, OH 45042		
Pam Fugett			

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329 Bending Branch

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*Ann Greiner

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TBD			
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^{*}Denotes member of Annual Conference by virtue of office.

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Jane Benner			

West Ohio Conference-UMC

United Methodist Women

2017 Spencer Lane

Middletown, OH 45042

PURPOSE

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and share it with other United Methodist Women.

Communication goes a long way!

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Dayton, OH

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